

## Down Syndrome

### *Informational Text*

**Directions:** Read the following information and answer the questions.



### **What is Down Syndrome?**

In every cell in the human body there are genes, which are instructions telling the body how to develop. Sometimes there is extra gene information on chromosome 21, causing the body to alter development and create Down syndrome. Why this happens is still unknown. Down syndrome affects people differently, but some physical traits include low muscle tone, small height, flattened face, an upward slant to the eyes, or a deep crease across the center of the palm. Down syndrome affects thinking and understanding differently, from very mild to severe. There is no cure for the syndrome, but education and proper care have shown to improve quality of life.

### **How Common is Down Syndrome?**

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, approximately one in every 700 babies in the United States is born with Down syndrome. About 6,000 babies are born in the United States each year with Down syndrome. Down syndrome occurs in people of all races and economic levels, though older women have an increased chance of having a child with Down syndrome. The syndrome was named after John Landon Down, the British doctor who fully described the condition in 1866.

### **What Impact Does Down Syndrome Have on Society?**

Individuals with Down syndrome are increasingly included into society, such as school, job opportunities, and sporting events like Special Olympics. At some point in life, you will meet and interact with people of Down syndrome. Remember, they are people like you and me! They laugh at the same things, eat the same foods, and enjoy the same hobbies. Their condition is not a disease but a syndrome. Sometimes people with Down syndrome work on a different level than others or need extra time understanding situations. Be a patient friend to people with Down syndrome – everyone likes a friend!

Source: *ndss.org*

### **Questions:**

1. What is the author's purpose of this passage? (1 sentence) *The purpose is to provide information about Down syndrome, with a concluding point that these individuals should be treated equally.*
2. List three groups who could use this information. (1 sentence) *Three groups include parents having a baby with Down syndrome, a website generally explaining the situation, a student or doctor in training.*
3. In the second section of the text, which sentence is off-topic and should be removed? (1 sentence) *The sentence about John Landon Down describing the syndrome should be placed in a section of general facts.*
4. How does starting each section with a question help the reader understand? (≥2 sentences) *This format clearly states the paragraph's topic. It provides information quickly and directly for the reader.*
5. In your opinion, which section is the most informative? (1 sentence, use "because") *Possible answer: the first section gives an overview of the condition, the reason, and common physical appearance.*
6. What causes Down syndrome, and how has quality of life improved for individuals? (2 sentences) *The cause is unknown at this time. Life has improved for individuals through education and proper care.*
7. If you were a teacher expecting a new student with Down syndrome, how would you prepare the class? (≥2 sentences) *First, I would explain the syndrome with its condition, reason, and common effects. Then I would help the class understand from the point of view of the Down syndrome student.*

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6. What causes Down syndrome, and how has quality of life improved for individuals? (2 sentences)
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